



Surf festival on point for Kirra future

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GOLD COAST BUREAU

THOUSANDS of beachgoers turned out at Kirra yesterday to remember how great the beach once was – and to campaign for how great it could be once again.

The southern Gold Coast point break is one of Australian surfing's most famous, but a heavy build-up of sand has rendered it virtually un-surfable in all but cyclonic swells.

Yesterday's inaugural Kirra Surfstock festival was a celebration of some of the memories Kirra has provided to the sport and also a chance to pressure local and state government to restore the beach to its former glory.

Kirra Surfriders life member Darryl Green has been surfing the beach for more than 30 years and said it would be a long battle to get the real Kirra back.

"A lot of people are really concerned about this, as you can see by the turnout," he said. "We are really trying to get it back to those old glory days."

He said a simple solution would be to bulldoze sand build-up towards the sand dunes, in effect gouging out a bay to create optimum surfing conditions.

The hallowed stretch of sand holds a special place for many people, including Miss Kirra Surfstock entrant Kirra Tipping, who owes her name to the famed point break.



NAME GAME: Miss Kirra Surfstock entrant Kirra Tipping, whose parents named her after the beach they loved, and Darryl Green, who has been surfing the beach for 30 years, hit the waves yesterday.

Picture: Paul Riley